

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end all the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1970.

Approved April 22, 1970

CHAPTER 242
(House Bill 286)

AN ACT to add new Section 15A to Article 78A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (~~1965~~ 1969 Replacement Volume), title "Public Works," subtitle "Board of Public Works," to follow immediately after Section 15 thereof, pertaining to conveyances by the Board of Public Works of ~~interests in~~ TITLE TO lands owned by the State due to their relationship to the waters of the State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 15A be and it is hereby added to Article 78A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (~~1965~~ 1969 Replacement Volume), title "Public Works," subtitle "Board of Public Works," to follow immediately after Section 15 thereof, and to read as follows:

15A.

(a) The Board of Public Works shall not convey any ~~interest in~~ TITLE TO land owned by the State due to its relationship to the waters of the State to any person other than the riparian owner or proprietor of the land abutting the land being conveyed. The Board may only make such a conveyance after seeking the advice of the Department of Natural Resources; , appropriate agricultural agencies, including the Maryland Agricultural Commission and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee AND THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMITTEE of the county in which the land is located; , and other interested Federal and State agencies; ~~as to the possibility of detrimental effects to the natural resources and agricultural resources of the area.~~ Prior to such a conveyance, there must be a public hearing, with proper notice, in the county in which the land is located, after which a written decision must be rendered by the Board justifying its action, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE WITH RESPECT TO THE VARYING ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND AESTHETIC VALUES OF THE AREA UNDER CONSIDERATION. This document shall be maintained in the permanent records of the Board and be open to public scrutiny.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not ~~effect~~ AFFECT the title to interests conveyed by the State prior to July 1, 1970, by a valid grant, lease or patent or a grant confirmed by Article 5 of the